

1 Q Is that an aggressive form of treatment,
2 Doctor?

3 A It is very aggressive. It is invasive. It
4 is not something you just do in the office or at the
5 bedside.

6 It is a surgical procedure and it is quite
7 risky because you are draining this fluid directly
8 into the blood circulation, so there is a tremendous
9 risk for clotting off, there is a risk of infection.

10 It is a fairly aggressive approach.

11 Q Is it a curative or palliative approach?

12 A It is entirely palliative. The attempt here
13 is entirely to alleviate the discomfort of this
14 accumulation of fluid by allowing it to drain into
15 someplace else.

16 Q Now, after Mr. Vandergucht had the insertion
17 of the shunt, sometime later in October of 1991 it
18 became blocked or -- is that correct?

19 A Yes, obstructed.

20 Q Obstructed. And what problems would that
21 cause or did that cause in Mr. Vandergucht's case?